

this may also be a revisionary character which in this case suggests a close phylogenetic relationship between the genera *Erithacus* and *Phoenicurus*. I am aware that this is very hypothetical, but the close relationship of the species within these two genera and also *Luscinia* can be seen in the great similarity of the nestlings and juveniles and to a certain extent in the breeding biology. It may perhaps also be significant that the eggs of the Redstart occasionally show signs of reddish-brown speckling similar to, but less dense than that on the eggs of the Robin.

The fact that the three genera mentioned above are closely related is one that is recognized by the majority of ornithologists, and I have little doubt that research on the lines followed by Dr. K. H. Voous in his valuable work on the genus *Dendrocopos* (*Limosa* Vol. 20, pp.1-142). would do much to elucidate the problem.

A new race of *Cossypha polioptera* Reichenow

By MR. C. M. N. WHITE

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Cossypha polioptera grimwoodi new race.

Description: Differs from *C.p.polioptera* Reichenow, in its clearer grey head top and in having the back and rump less tawny and more olive brown.

Type: Male adult, collected by Major I. R. Grimwood at the source of the Zambesi River, Mwinilunga district, Northern Rhodesia, 23rd July 1954, in evergreen forest. In the British Museum (Natural History), Reg. No. 1954, 34. 1.

Measurements of type: Wing 84, tail 71, culmen 17mm.

Distribution: So far only known from the type locality where a male and female were collected together whilst feeding on a column of army ants. This new race represents a considerable extension of range for the nominate race is known from the Lotti forest, south-eastern Sudan, the base of Mt. Elgon, and Kisumu across Uganda to Bukoba, Mahagi and Nioka on the edge of the Belgian Congo. The nominate race apparently re-appears in north Angola at Ndala Tando whence a single specimen agrees well with one from Uganda.

Named after Major Grimwood who collected these interesting specimens which he has presented to the British Museum.

The status of *Turdus fischeri belcheri* Benson, "Ostrich", 1950, p.58

By C. W. BENSON

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In my Nyasaland check list (Benson, 1953, p. 54), I used the racial name *T. f. belcheri* for the form of this thrush in southern Nyasaland, instead of *T. f. natalicus* Grote as used by Mr. C. W. Mackworth-Praed and Captain C. H. B. Grant in the MS. for their "Birds of Eastern and North-Eastern Africa." As will be understood from page 1 of the check list, these authors very kindly allowed me to use their nomenclature. This was one of the relatively few instances in which it was not followed.